

Filed for intro on 03/18/98

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 521
By Burks

A RESOLUTION relative to the construction of a truck lane on
Monterey Mountain on Interstate 40 in Putnam
County.

WHEREAS, Interstate 40 is the major east-west thoroughfare in Tennessee and a
principal interstate of this nation; and

WHEREAS, Interstate 40 is heavily traveled by both private and commercial trucks; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee has over 900,000 registered trucks and buses; and

WHEREAS, trucks traveled over 13,000,000 miles in Tennessee last year; and

WHEREAS, truck lanes have proven to expedite travel and increase public safety; and

WHEREAS, Monterey Mountain is the steepest eastbound incline on Interstate 40
between Memphis and Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, the recent winter storm of 1998 conclusively demonstrated that driving
eastbound up Monterey Mountain under blizzard-type conditions can be extremely hazardous;
and

WHEREAS, Senate Joint Resolution No. 262 of the 98th General Assembly requested
the Department of Transportation to study the feasibility of establishing a truck lane on a certain
segment of Interstate 40 eastbound up Monterey Mountain; and

WHEREAS, as a result of such study, three different proposals to construct a truck lane
were presented to the Department of Transportation; and

50000001

50000001

012354

01235416

WHEREAS, the widening and construction of a truck lane on the Monterey Mountain section of Interstate 40 in Putnam County would increase the capability of salt trucks and other equipment to clear snow and ice from Interstate 40 when winter storms occur; and

WHEREAS, the construction of a truck lane would correct a traffic bottleneck that is infamous from Memphis to Bristol by ensuring that slower moving vehicles operate in a specific lane, thus enhancing the safety of the entire driving public; and

WHEREAS, in addition to this problem, certain equipment utilized by the Department of Safety is inadequate and non-functional under winter storm conditions; and

WHEREAS, one of the primary functions of state government is to promote and protect the public safety and welfare; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That for the reasons stated in the preamble of this resolution, the Department of Transportation is hereby strongly urged and encouraged to construct a truck lane on Monterey Mountain between mile markers 291 and 300 of Interstate 40 eastbound and to also widen such segment of Interstate 40 in Putnam County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of Safety is strongly urged and encouraged to station an adequate number of four-wheel drive vehicles in the Monterey Mountain region to ensure the prompt response of highway patrol officers to traffic emergencies during winter storm conditions. The Department of Safety is further urged and encouraged to issue to highway patrol officers uniforms and other clothing that offer suitable protection from winter storm conditions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Commissioners of Transportation and Safety.